TERROR TALES

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JULY 1970

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TERROR TALES

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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

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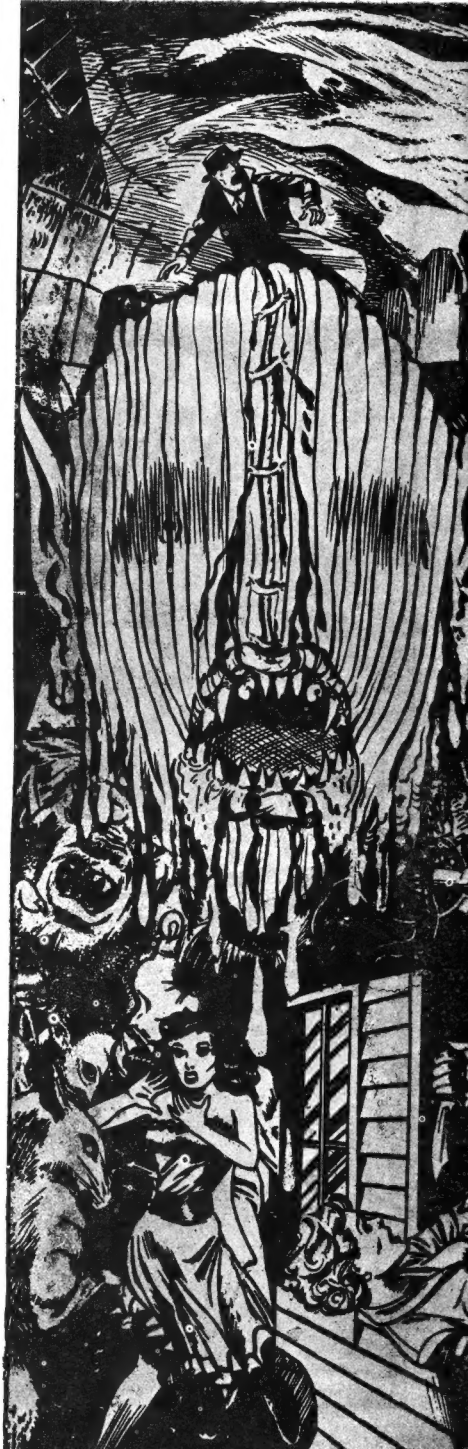


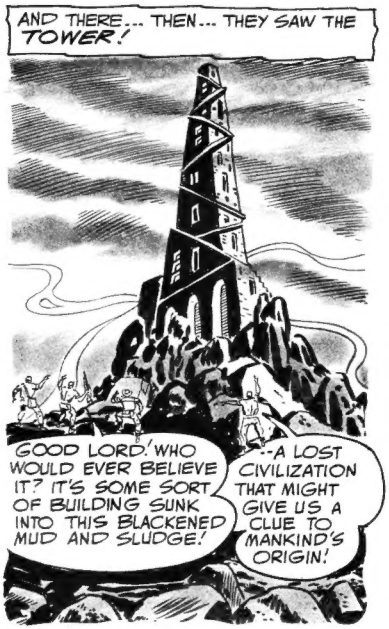
A RUMBLING THUNDER SHOOK THE COOL, GREEN-BLUE WATER AND REGURGITATED THE MURKY FROTH INTO STINGING SPRAY. AND OUT OF ITS BUBBLING DEPTHS ROSE THE HORRIBLE VOLCANIC INFERNO THAT HAD COME TO CLAIM NEW VICTIMS LURING THEM TO THE...

ISLE OF DEMONS

THE SCIENTISTS WERE, ON THE SPOT. AN ISLAND BURSTING FROM HIDDEN, MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS COULDN'T ESCAPE DETECTION FOR LONG...
THERE IT IS, GENTLEMEN! INCREDIBLE! A SCENE OUT OF DANTE'S *INFERNO*! AS IF WE ARE POISED ON THE GATES OF HELL!
I DON'T LIKE THIS, STANTON! THE AUTHORITIES ONLY ALLOWED US TO VIEW THE ISLAND -- NOT LAND ON IT!
NONSENSE, WILLIAMS! DON'T BE SO JUMPY, MAN! WE'LL JUST STAY A FEW MINUTES!

MOMENTS LATER, THE PLANE LANDED AND THE SCIENTIFIC GROUP MADE PREPARATIONS TO EXPLORE THE NEWLY-BORN ISLAND! AS THE FOUL-SMELLING VAPORS ISSUED FORTH, THE SENSE OF MYSTERY DEEPENED...
IT'S WRONG, STANTON! I HAVE A STRANGE PREMONITION!
DON'T BE A FOOL! I GIVE THE ORDERS HERE!

YOU'RE COMING WITH US! LOOK -- THIS IS THE FIND OF THE DECADE! LOOK, MAN -- *LOOK!*


AND THERE... THEN... THEY SAW THE *TOWER!*
GOOD LORD! WHO WOULD EVER BELIEVE IT? IT'S SOME SORT OF BUILDING SUNK INTO THIS BLACKENED MUD AND SLUDGE!
-- A LOST CIVILIZATION THAT MIGHT GIVE US A CLUE TO MANKIND'S ORIGIN!

BUT AS THEY TALKED IN AWE... AN OMINOUS SOUND MADE THEM WHIRL AROUND IN HORROR...
AIIE! THE PLANE... IT'S SINKING INTO THE MUD! *HELP!*
TOO LATE! STAY BACK OR WE'LL BE SUCKED INTO THAT QUAGMIRE, TOO!

WE SHOULDN'T HAVE LANDED! I TOLD YOU! OHHH... WE'LL ALL DIE HERE!
NO ONE'S GOING TO DIE, WILLIAMS! SNAP OUT OF IT! THE AUTHORITIES KNOW WE'RE HERE! THEY'LL SEND A RESCUE PLANE WITHIN THE HOUR!

WELL... WHAT SHALL WE DO? WE'RE STRANDED HERE!
USE YOUR HEAD! THIS WILL GIVE US A CHANCE TO EXPLORE FURTHER! FOLLOW ME!

BUT AS THE MEN APPROACHED, A DARK SHADOW OF HORRIBLE MEANING SLUNK DEEPER INTO THE BLACKNESS OF THE DRIPPING WALLS...
WILLIAMS MIGHT BE RIGHT, STANTON! THERE'S AN AIR OF BROODING THAT HANGS OVER THIS PLACE! HEAVEN KNOWS HOW LONG THIS ISLAND HAS BEEN UNDER WATER!
LOOK... THERE'S ANOTHER CHAMBER INSIDE!

GREAT SCOTT! GOLD!
GOLD! HA-HA... WE'RE RICH! THE IDOLS... THE DECORATIONS... THEY'RE ALL GOLD! THERE'S MILLIONS HERE... MILLIONS!
BUT WHY, STANTON? WHY IS THIS TOWER HERE? WHAT IS IT? WHO WERE THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT IT?
THAT'S NOT IN OUR PROVINCE TO FIND OUT! WE'RE ONLY RESPONSIBLE FOR DISCOVERING IT... AND THE TREASURE! LET THE ARCHEOLOGISTS DIG OUT THE SECRETS!

ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS HOW MUCH GOLD IS HERE...
AND IF THERE'S MORE OF IT! THIS IDOL FOR INSTANCE ...IT'S SOLID GOLD!

NO SOONER HAD STANTON CRUSHED THE IDOL TO PIECES, A STRANGE, THROBBING SOUND, FOLLOWED BY AN EERIE WAILING ISSUED FORTH FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE TOWER...
OOOOEEEOOEEH! THEY HAVE BLASPHEMED AGAINST US! RISE, BROTHERS, RISE! OOOOEEEOOEEH!

OOOOEEEOOEEH! THEY HAVE DESTROYED OUR OFFERINGS TO THE TOWER! THEY HAVE CURSED OUR FATES! LET THEM JOIN US NOW-- IN ETERNAL MISERY!
YA-A-A!! LET ME OUT OF HERE!

W-WHAT ARE THEY? I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS IN MY LIFE!
DEVILS FROM THE DEEP-- THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE! DON'T YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE? THE INSCRIPTIONS...THE DECORATIONS...WE'RE IN THE TOWER OF BABEL!

NOW THE MEN HAD BUT ONE THOUGHT... TO FLEE FROM THE NIGHTMARISH SCOURGE THAT PURSUED THEM... FLEE FOR THEIR VERY LIVES!
OOOOEEEOOEEH! HASTEN, BROTHERS! BEHOLD! ONE STUMBLES! GOOD-- HE SHALL JOIN US!
ALIEEE!

YAAAGGHH!
COME, MORTAL! YOU ARE NOW ONE OF US! WELCOME, WELCOME INTO OUR FOLD!

AAAARRRGGH! THE GROUND'S OPENING UP UNDER ME! AAIIEEEE!

ONLY STANTON WAS LEFT! GASPING, PANTING, HE EMERGED FROM THE TOWER--TOO FRIGHTENED TO THINK--TOO TERRIFIED TO REMAIN...
GASP, GASP... I'M FREE! MADE IT! HA, HA--I'M FREE! THEY'LL NEVER FOLLOW ME OUT HERE! WILLIAMS, BARLOW, EVANS--ALL GONE! ONLY I'M LEFT...

THE GROUND--IT'S CHANGING--UNDULATING! NO--NO! PLEASE--! IT CAN'T BE! FIGURES ARE COMING OUT OF THE MUD! THEY'RE...
ALIVE! EVERYTHING'S ALIVE!

COME, MORTAL! YOU ARE NOW ALONE! WHAT CAN YOUR PUNY EXISTENCE OFFER YOU? JOIN US FOR ALL ETERNITY! JOIN US IN DEATH!
N-NO! DON'T TOUCH ME! STAY AWAY FROM ME!

I'LL--I'LL KILL YOU ALL! DON'T TAKE ANOTHER STEP! I'M WARNING YOU!

AAARRGH!
HA... HA! SO YOU CAN BE HURT! GOOD! I'VE GOT OVER A DOZEN ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION! I'LL KILL YOU ALL! STAY BACK!

FOR ALMOST AN HOUR STANTON HELD THE CREATURES OF ETERNAL DEATH AT BAY... BUT NOW ANOTHER HORROR--MORE DANGEROUS AND MENACING HAD ARISEN...
THE ISLAND-- IT'S SINKING BACK INTO THE WATER!

YOU UNDERSTAND NOW, MORTAL? YOU CANNOT CONQUER THE UNKNOWN! YOUR PUNY WEAPONS HAVE ONLY PROLONGED THE INEVITABLE! WELCOME NOW! WELCOME!
YAAAAH!

THE WATERS ROLLED OVER HIM AND DRAGGED HIM DOWN! HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE MUD AND THE LAVA, AND THE SEA FILLED HIS LUNGS-- AND DOWN HE WENT... TO JOIN THE HORDES OF DEATH FOREVER...
...FOR HE HAD STUMBLED ONTO THE ISLE OF THE DOOMED-- GATEWAY TO HELL!!

JOHN ANDERS WAS SURE HE HAD THE ANSWER TO WHY ACCIDENTS HAPPENED TO PEOPLE--UNTIL HE SAW THE HORROR THAT EMERGED FROM THE NETHERWORLD! IT WAS THEN THAT HIS OWN LIFE HUNG IN THE BALANCE! FOR NONE WHO MET THE CREATURES EVER ESCAPED THE...
EVIL MONSTERS
WE CAN'T LET YOU RETAIN OUR SECRET, JOHN ANDERS! YOU MUST DIE AS ALL THE OTHERS!
NO! NO!
BUT, WHY? WHO--WHAT CAUSES THEM? THIS INFORMATION I'VE JUST DISCOVERED WILL STUN THE ENTIRE WORLD! THINK OF IT--SOME UNKNOWN EVIL POWER IS LEAGUED AGAINST MANKIND!
JOHN ANDERS WAS THE CITY MORGUE STATISTICIAN! FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN FATAL ACCIDENTS--AND NOW HE WAS ON TRACK OF DISCOVERY AT LAST!
HERE IT IS--THE CURVE ON THIS GRAPH! GOOD LORD! IT MEANS THAT ACCIDENTS ARE NEVER ACCIDENTAL! TOO MANY COINCIDENCES CAUSING THEM ARE DELIBERATE!

ARMED WITH HIS EARTH-SHAKING KNOWLEDGE, ANDERS KNEW TO THE SECOND WHEN AN ACCIDENT WOULD HAPPEN! HE APPROACHED THE CROWDED THOROUGHFARE AS A BIRD WOULD A SNAKE...
THAT MAN DOESN'T SEE THE TRUCK COMING!
HEY! WATCH OUT FOR THAT TRUCK!
SKREECH
ANDERS HAD CLOSED HIS EYES FOR ONE TERRIBLE SECOND -- BUT HE COULD NEVER DEAFEN HIS EARS TO THE SICKENING THUD OF THE IMPACT! IT WAS THEN THAT HE SAW THE GNOME...
YAEEEEE
THUD
HEE-HEE! ANOTHER ONE!
I SAW THAT... THAT THING PUSH THE MAN TOWARDS THE TRUCK! BUT NO ONE ELSE DID!
THE GNOME DISAPPEARED WITHOUT A TRACE! ANDERS WALKED TO ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, AND GRIMLY WATCHED AGAIN...
ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, A SAFE IS GOING TO FALL!
AND ANOTHER SHADOWY FORM MATERIALIZED ON TOP OF THE BUILDING...
JUST A SNIP, SNIP, SNIP -- AND IT WILL FLIP, FLIP, FLIP ON THE MORTAL'S HEAD! HA-HA!
WATCH OUT! OH, NO!

THIS TIME, ANDERS RESOLVED TO TRACE THAT EVIL CACKLING FIGURE! NIGHT HAD FALLEN! THE HE STILL PURSUED HIS QUARRY!
CRASH!
APPARENTLY IT'S INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT ME!
HA-HA-HEE-HEE! BACK TO THE GROTTO FOR ME!
MINUTES LATER, HE HAD FOLLOWED THE STRANGE GNOME TOWARDS THE RAILROAD DEPOT! PEOPLE WERE NOW LOOKING AT HIM QUEERLY...
LET THEM LOOK! I CAN'T TELL THEM OF FINDING THE SECRET OF THE AGES!
TRACK 7
HE'S GOING INTO THAT TUNNEL! I MUSTN'T LOSE HIM!
HEE-HEE! BEHOLD! IT IS SHRUMPKIN! HO! EVERYONE OUT! HEE-HEE! TELL US WHAT HAPPENED! TELL US! HA! HA!
DOWN, DOWN--EVER DOWNWARD THAT HIDEOUS FORM TRAVELED--PAST DRIPPING, OOZING LABYRINTHS OF SLIME--PAST PLOPPING WHIRLPOOLS OF FILTH--UNTIL IT CAME TO A GROTTO-LIKE CAVE ...
CRUMKIN, FRUMKIN AND LUMKIN SHALL BE GLAD TO SEE ME TONIGHT! TWO MORE HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF NICELY! HA! HA!

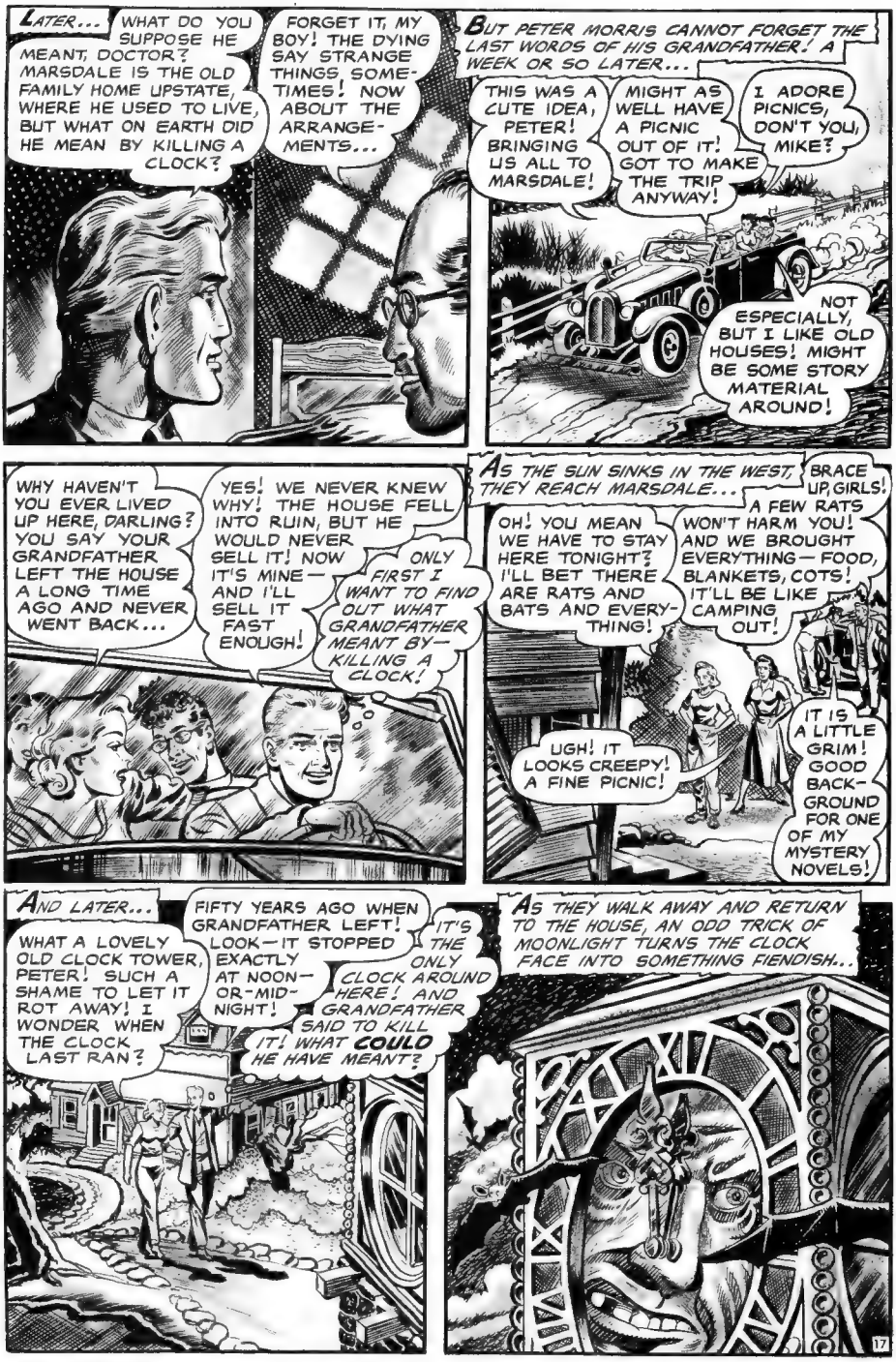
BUT AS JOHN ANDERS LOOKED ABOUT, THE THOUGHT BECAME CLEAR TO HIM THAT HERE WAS A RACE MUCH MORE ADVANCED IN THE SCIENCES THAN MAN! FOR EVERYWHERE WERE BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF LIGHTS AND INSTRUMENTS!
WHAT IS THIS? WHERE AM I?
SHRUMPKIN WAS SUCCESSFUL! HA! HA! DANCE--DANCE--DANCE!
...GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE -- WARN OTHERS...
IT'S A HUMAN! HURRY-- STOP HIM! HE WILL MAKE OUR EXISTENCE KNOWN! CATCH HIM! CATCH HIM!
WE SHALL EAT WELL TONIGHT!
BEHOLD! I SEE A SHADOW!
WAIT! I HEAR A SOUND! THERE'S SOMEONE HERE! ONE WHO ISN'T OF US!
SHOUT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL! NO ONE CAN HEAR YOU! WE CANNOT LET YOU TATTLE ON US! YOUR PEOPLE MAY THINK YOU DAFT-- BUT THEN AGAIN-- THEY MAY NOT! WE HATE SURFACE PEOPLE!
NO! LET ME ALONE! HELP!
YAAAAA! PLEASE LET ME GO! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
I HAVE HIM!
GOOD! HE IS WELL-BUILT! HE'LL PROVIDE US WITH MANY MEALS! HA! HA!
DRAG HIM BACK TO THE GROTTO!

THEY PULLED AT ANDERS-- THEY SCRATCHED AT HIM--THEY CLAWED AT HIM--BUT THE DESPERATE MAN BROKE LOOSE AND RAN--RAN FOR HIS VERY LIFE!
YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME! I'LL WIN YET! PUFF-PUFF!
HE IS CHEATING US OUT OF OUR DINNER! GET HIM!
GASP... I-I'VE GOT TO MAKE MY WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE--IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
EXIT
GET HIM! WE'D LIKE TO EAT HIM ALIVE! BUT KILL HIM IF YOU MUST!
TIME WAS PRECIOUS... TIME WAS FLEETING FOR ANDERS! THE HORRIBLE HORDE WOULD BE PREPARING SOMETHING ESPECIALLY GRUESOME FOR HIM! HE HAD TO WARN THE WORLD!
BACK THROUGH THOSE MAZE OF PASSAGEWAYS HE RAN...TILL HE MADE HIS WAY TO THE SURFACE!
GASP! GASP! I'VE DONE IT! HA! HA! I WON... I'M FREE! WE'LL SEE IF YOU CAN STOP ME!
FREE
FREE
THESE ARE ALL THE CHARTS! THEY MUST BELIEVE ME!
BUT HOURS LATER...
NOW GET OUT AND STAY OUT! THE MAYOR CAN'T BE DISTURBED BY EVERY CRACKPOT THAT COMES TO SEE HIM! "ACCIDENTS BEING DELIBERATE!" GNOMES! HA!
ALL RIGHT! I'LL HAVE TO WARN THEM SOME OTHER WAY! I'LL BUY AN AD IN THE PAPER! I'LL SPEND ALL MY SAVINGS IF I MUST!
ANDERS-- JOHN ANDERS! WE'VE COME FOR YOU!
OH NO!

GASP... GASP... I-- I THINK I'VE LOST THEM! THEY'LL NEVER FIND ME NOW!
HELLO, JOHN ANDERS! HELLO!
DANG
THEY RUSHED TOWARD HIM--PUSHING HIM BACK... TUGGING AT HIM, SHOVING HIM UNTIL HE LOST HIS BALANCE AND FELL INTO A MANHOLE! THAT WAS THE LAST THING HE HEARD--THE SOUND OF THE LAST THING HE HEARD--THE SOUND OF THEIR LAUGHTER--- THE TERRIBLE SOUND...
TAKE HIM!
GOODBYE, JOHN ANDERS! GOODBYE! HA! HA! HEE, HEE, HA!
YAAAAAAA
THE POLICE FOUND HIM LATER! SOMEONE HAD LODGED A COMPLAINT THAT THE CESSPOOL IN THEIR YARD WAS OVERFLOWING-- SOMETHING WAS CLOGGING IT!
HE MUST OF SLIPPED INTO A MANHOLE--AND WAS WASHED DOWN HERE!
JUST ANOTHER ROTTEN ACCIDENT! OH, WELL-- CALL THE WAGON!
YES! WE CAN TAKE OUT HIS LIGHT NOW! OUR MASTER SHALL BE PLEASED WITH US!
WELL--WE DIDN'T EAT HIM--BUT HE IS ONE LESS!
HA HA WEE
AND UNDERGROUND IN THEIR GROTTO, THE STRANGE GNOMES CHORTLED IN GLEE! THEY KNEW, THAT ANDERS COULD NEVER CONQUER THEM! THEY KEPT THE LIFE SOULS OF MAN IN THOSE LIGHTS! THEIR MASTER, YOU SEE, WAS... DEATH!!!
THE END

DEATH STRIKES FOUR

WHAT SPECIAL AND HORRIBLE KIND OF OIL WAS IT THAT MADE THE CLOCK RUN AFTER FIFTY YEARS OF RUST AND DECAY? WHY DID IT ALWAYS STRIKE THE WRONG HOUR? AND HOW, ABOVE ALL, DID THE DEMON CLOCK MANAGE TO MOVE FROM PLACE TO PLACE? WAS IT ALIVE? COULD IT THINK? COULD IT KILL? COME ALONG WITH THE FOUR UNFORTUNATES WHO FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE **CLOCK THAT WENT INSANE...**


LATER...
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT, DOCTOR? MARSDALE IS THE OLD FAMILY HOME UPSTATE, WHERE HE USED TO LIVE, BUT WHAT ON EARTH DID HE MEAN BY KILLING A CLOCK?
FORGET IT, MY BOY! THE DYING SAY STRANGE THINGS, SOMETIMES! NOW ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENTS...
BUT PETER MORRIS CANNOT FORGET THE LAST WORDS OF HIS GRANDFATHER! A WEEK OR SO LATER...
THIS WAS A CUTE IDEA, PETER! BRINGING US ALL TO MARSDALE!
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE A PICNIC OUT OF IT! GOT TO MAKE THE TRIP ANYWAY!
I ADORE PICNICS, DON'T YOU, MIKE?
NOT ESPECIALLY, BUT I LIKE OLD HOUSES! MIGHT BE SOME STORY MATERIAL AROUND!
WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVER LIVED UP HERE, DARLING? YOU SAY YOUR GRANDFATHER LEFT THE HOUSE A LONG TIME AGO AND NEVER WENT BACK...
YES! WE NEVER KNEW WHY! THE HOUSE FELL INTO RUIN, BUT HE WOULD NEVER SELL IT! NOW IT'S MINE— AND I'LL SELL IT FAST ENOUGH!
ONLY FIRST I WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT GRANDFATHER MEANT BY— KILLING A CLOCK!
AS THE SUN SINKS IN THE WEST, THEY REACH MARSDALE...
BRACE UP, GIRLS! A FEW RATS WON'T HARM YOU! AND WE BROUGHT EVERYTHING— FOOD, BLANKETS, COTS! IT'LL BE LIKE CAMPING OUT!
OH! YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO STAY HERE TONIGHT? I'LL BET THERE ARE RATS AND BATS AND EVERYTHING!
UGH! IT LOOKS CREEPY! A FINE PICNIC!
IT IS A LITTLE GRIM! GOOD BACKGROUND FOR ONE OF MY MYSTERY NOVELS!
AND LATER...
WHAT A LOVELY OLD CLOCK TOWER, PETER! SUCH A SHAME TO LET IT ROT AWAY! I WONDER WHEN THE CLOCK LAST RAN?
FIFTY YEARS AGO WHEN GRANDFATHER LEFT! LOOK— IT STOPPED EXACTLY AT NOON— OR-MIDNIGHT!
IT'S THE ONLY CLOCK AROUND HERE! AND GRANDFATHER SAID TO KILL IT! WHAT COULD HE HAVE MEANT?
AS THEY WALK AWAY AND RETURN TO THE HOUSE, AN ODD TRICK OF MOONLIGHT TURNS THE CLOCK FACE INTO SOMETHING FIENDISH...
17

LATER THAT NIGHT, MIKE CANNING, THE OTHER MAN IN THE PARTY, STEPS OUT FOR A BREATH OF AIR...
HMMM— THAT IS AN INTERESTING BIT! MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE IT IN MY NEXT BOOK! LOOKS SPOOKY ENOUGH, AND A SWELL PLACE FOR A MURDER! I COULD CALL IT THE BODY IN THE CLOCK TOWER!
THINK I'LL JUST GO UP AND HAVE A LOOK AROUND! PETER SAYS THE CLOCK HASN'T RUN FOR FIFTY YEARS, SO I CAN'T HURT ANYTHING!
A MOMENT LATER HE ENTERS THE MACHINERY ROOM! OVER EVERYTHING HOVERS THE SMELL OF DUST AND DECAY...
WHEW! DUST AN INCH THICK! AND LOOK AT ALL THAT RUST... BET THIS OLD CLOCK NEVER RUNS AGAIN! WELL, I'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK!
SUDDENLY, BEHIND HIM...
HUH? THE DOOR SLAMMED SHUT! M-MUST HAVE BEEN THE WIND, I GUESS! BUT THIS PLACE IS GETTING ON MY NERVES!
LOCKED! I'M LOCKED IN! B-BUT IT CAN'T BE— THERE'S ONLY A BOLT! YET THE DOOR WON'T B-BUDGE!
SLAM
THEN HE HEARS A BLOOD-CURDLING SOUND— THE SINISTER CRUNCH AND GRIND OF GEARS! AND THE FLOOR...
Y!!!!!!!!— THE FLOOR! TILTING! I'M SLIDING DOWN INTO THE CLOCK MACHINERY! GAAAAA— IT'S RUNNING! I'LL BE...
WHIRR
RR
RR
RATTLE
...CRUSHED— AHHHHHHHHHHH—

CANNING'S FEARFUL SCREAMS ARE HEARD IN THE HOUSE...
SOUNDED LIKE IT CAME FROM THE CLOCK TOWER!
OH, THOSE HORRIBLE SCREAMS! WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE IT WAS?
THAT WAS MIKE'S VOICE! I'M SURE OF IT! BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM!
PETER! ALICE! LOOK— THE CLOCK! THE HANDS— THEY'RE TELLING THE RIGHT TIME!
B—BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS BROKEN!
SO DID I, BUT IT'S RIGHT! IT'S EXACTLY EIGHT O' CLOCK BY MY WRIST-WATCH.
SOMEWHERE IN PETER'S MIND IS A HAUNTING FEAR! HE SENSES THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED TO MIKE, SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE STRANGE CLOCK, BUT HE DOES NOT WANT TO ALARM THE GIRLS UNDULY! SO...
IT ONLY STRUCK ONE!
WHAT A CREEPY SOUND! NOT LIKE A REGULAR CLOCK AT ALL! AND WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MIKE!
I WANT YOU GIRLS TO GO BACK TO THE HOUSE AT ONCE! THERE'S SOMETHING AROUND HERE THAT I DON'T LIKE! COME ON, LET'S GO BACK NOW!
BONG-ONGG!
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO HUNT FOR MIKE, WHY CAN'T WE GO WITH YOU?
YES! WE D-DON'T WANT TO STAY HERE ALONE!
DON'T BE SILLY! MIKE IS PROBABLY LOST IN THE WOODS SOMEWHERE, MAYBE EVEN INJURED, AND I'LL FIND HIM QUICKER IF I'M ALONE! YOU'LL BE PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT HERE!
LATER, PETER DOES MAKE A QUICK SEARCH OF THE GROUNDS AROUND THE HOUSE...
NOT A SIGN OF MIKE IN THE WOODS! NOT EVEN A FOOT-PRINT! IF HE'S AROUND HERE, I'VE GOT A FEELING HE'S IN THE CLOCK TOWER! EITHER INJURED OR — DEAD!
I'M SURE NOW THAT GRANDFATHER WASN'T JUST TALKING NONSENSE WHEN HE DIED! HE KNEW SOMETHING! AND HE MEANT TO TELL ME, WHEN HE SAID TO KILL THE CLOCK!

FOOTPRINTS GOING UP, BUT NONE COMING DOWN! TWO SETS OF THEM! THEY'VE BEEN MADE JUST RECENTLY— SO WHOEVER WENT UP THERE— IS STILL THERE!

PETER GOES QUIETLY UP THE ANCIENT STAIRS...
THE GIRLS WERE RIGHT! THIS PLACE IS CREEPY! MAKES ME FEEL AS IF SOMETHING WERE TERRIBLY WRONG, AS THOUGH SOMETHING IS WAITING TO POUNCE OUT OF THE SHADOWS!

AS HE REACHES THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, A CHILL OF TERROR EDGES ALONG HIS SPINE, AND THE HAIRS PRICKLE ON HIS NECK...
T—THERE IS SOMETHING! IN THOSE SHADOWS— WAITING FOR ME!

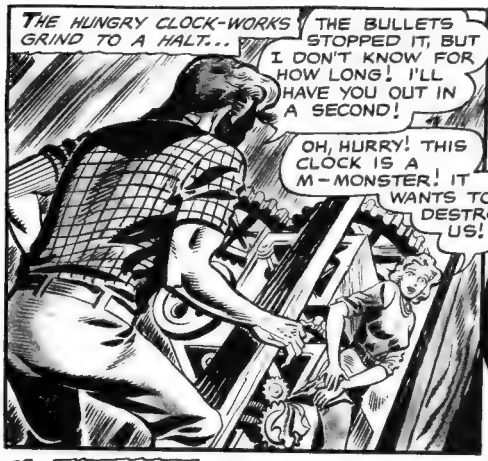
GOT YOU, WHOEVER YOU ARE! AND MAYBE YOU'D BETTER DO A LITTLE TALKING...
OHHHHHHH—

PETER! IT'S JENNY!
GREAT GODFREY! WHAT IN HECK ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU LITTLE FOOL? I MIGHT HAVE KILLED YOU!

ALICE FELL ASLEEP AND I WAS LONELY! FRIGHTENED, TOO, I GUESS! I KNEW YOU WOULD COME TO THE TOWER SOONER OR LATER, SO I CAME TO MEET YOU! THEN I SAW THE FOOT-PRINTS IN THE DUST AND THOUGHT YOU WERE UP HERE!
BUT THAT LEAVES ONE PAIR OF FOOTPRINTS STILL UNEXPLAINED! THERE MUST BE SOMEBODY UP HERE! BUT MIKE WOULD HAVE CALLED OUT BY NOW—IF HE'S STILL ALIVE!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK IN HERE! MUST BE WHERE THE CLOCK MACHINERY IS HOUSED! MAYBE WE CAN FIND WHAT STARTED THE CLOCK RUNNING AGAIN!
ALL R-RIGHT, BUT THIS PLACE TERRIFIES ME, PETER! LET'S LEAVE AS SOON AS WE FIND MIKE!

THE DOOR INTO THE MACHINERY ROOM OPENS EASILY, AS IF ON OILED HINGES...
WHY, IT SEEMS TO BE IN PERFECT CONDITION NOW! WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT, PETER? DO YOU SUPPOSE MIKE...
WHY WOULD MIKE FOOL WITH A CLOCK THAT HASN'T RUN FOR FIFTY YEARS? BESIDES, THERE IS NO SIGN OF HIM!
WHIRRR
CLICK
RATTLE
TICK-TICK-TOCK
SOMEBODY HAS DRENCHED THIS THING IN OIL, NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT! SEE HOW IT GLISTENS... NOT A SIGN OF RUST NOW! BUT WAIT A MINUTE! THIS ISN'T OIL!
IT'S BLOOD! THE MACHINERY HAS BEEN GREASED WITH HUMAN BLOOD!
OHHHH! YOU MEAN THAT— MIKE?
AND THEN THE CLOCK SEEMS TO GIVE A TICKING-TOCKING — TERRIBLE CHUCKLE AND THE FLOOR TILTS CRAZILY...
PETER! HELP ME— AAAAAA!
THE F-FLOOR! CRAZY! THROWING US DOWN INTO THE MACHINERY! TRY TO GRAB SOMETHING, JENNY!
PETER'S FINGERS FIND A CREVICE IN THE FLOOR AND HE HANGS ON! BUT JENNY IS NOT SO LUCKY...
WHAT CAN I DO? I'M HELPLESS! BUT WAIT— THERE'S ONE CHANCE! A SLIM ONE...
SAVE ME! DON'T LET IT GET ME, PETER! OH, HELP ME! EEEEEEEEE-
AIEEEEEEEEE!
MY ONLY HOPE! IF I CAN SMASH THE MACHINERY AND GET JENNY OUT!


THE HUNGRY CLOCK-WORK'S GRIND TO A HALT...
THE BULLETS STOPPED IT, BUT I DON'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A SECOND!
OH, HURRY! THIS CLOCK IS A M-MONSTER! IT WANTS TO DESTROY US!

YES, THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLE AND UNCANNY ABOUT THIS PLACE! GRANDFATHER WARNED ME AGAINST THE CLOCK, SAID I WAS TO KILL IT!
I HOPE YOU SMASHED IT FOREVER! OH, MY SLACKS!

MOMENTS LATER AS THE CLOCK STILL SEEMS TO NURSE ITS WOUNDS...
LOOK, PETER! ALMOST AS—AS THOUGH IT WERE ALIVE! IT HATES US!
RUN! WE'VE GOT TO FIND ALICE AND GET OUT OF THIS PLACE! WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THE CLOCK LATER!

SAY, WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU TWO?
THE MOST HORRID THING, ALICE! THE CLOCK...
NEVER MIND EXPLAINING NOW! GET YOUR STUFF TOGETHER AND LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! HURRY UP!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, AS ALICE PACKS...
I WONDER WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH PETER AND JENNY? THEY BOTH ACTED AS IF THEY'D SEEN A GHOST! WELL, I SUPPOSE THEY'LL TELL ME WHEN THEY GET AROUND TO IT!

SUDDENLY...
OH— T-THAT HAND! THE CLOCK! AHHHHHH—HELP!

IT'S CRUSHING ME! EEEEEEEEEEEEE—

PETER AND JENNY HEAR THE SCREAMS...
GREAT SCOTT! THE CLOCK— IT'S MOVED! AND IT'S GOT ALICE!
M-MOVED? OH, WE MUST SAVE HER! HOW H-HORRIBLE!
AAAAAAA—

BUT SUDDENLY ALICE IS GONE...
S-SHE'S DISAPPEARED! AND THE CLOCK— IT'S MOVING CLOSER TO THE HOUSE! PETER— IT'S AFTER US!
I KNOW! THAT FIENDISH THING RUNS ON HUMAN FLESH AND BLOOD! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO POOR MIKE— AND NOW TO ALICE!

BONG-
BONG-OONG
IT'S STRIKING AGAIN! T-TWICE!
ONCE WHEN IT GOT MIKE! TWICE NOW! DON'T YOU SEE— IT'S KEEPING COUNT OF ITS VICTIMS! RUN— RUN! MAYBE WE CAN GET AWAY IN THE WOODS!

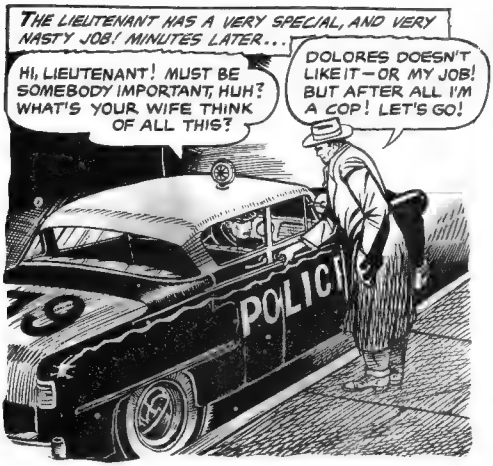
A FEW MINUTES LATER...
I THINK WE'VE LOST IT AT LAST! BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING UNTIL WE'RE SAFE! IF ONLY I HADN'T DROPPED THE FLASHLIGHT!
I—(GASP) —CAN'T GO MUCH FARTHER! I'M ALMOST DEAD! C-CAN'T WE STOP TO REST?

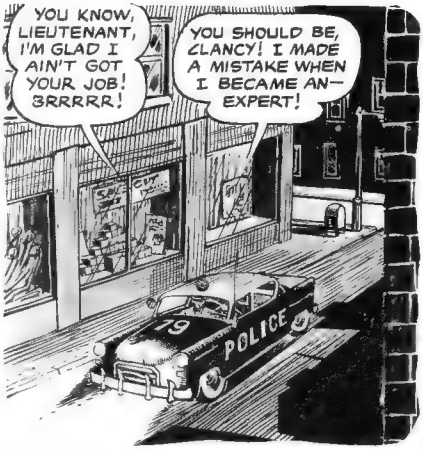
THEN OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
EEEEEEEEE— THE CLOCK AGAIN! IT FOLLOWED US!
THE HANDS! RUN! RUN!
YAAAAA—

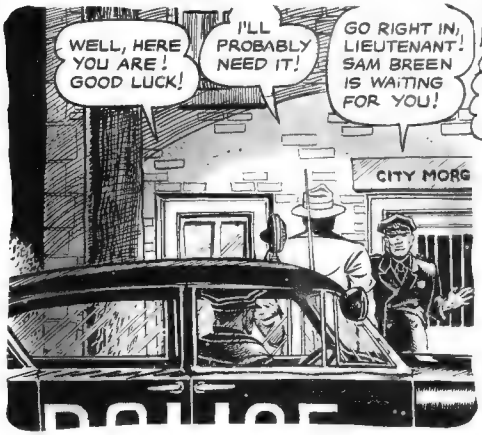
BONG-
BONG-
BONG-
BONG-
THE CLOCK STRIKES FOUR TIMES —AND THEN ONLY SILENCE...
The End

BURY HER DEEP

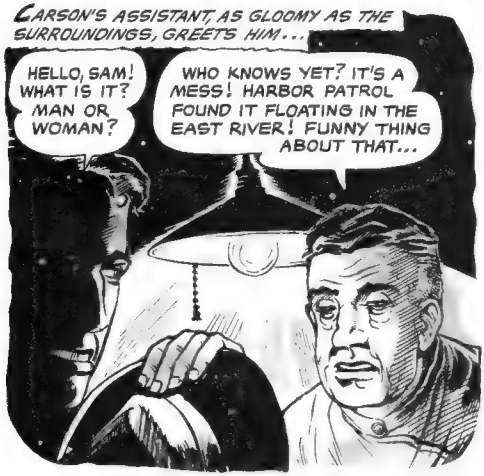
HIS WAS THE DIRTIEST JOB IN THE WORLD— AND THE TERRIBLE SECRET HE CARRIED IN HIS HEART MADE IT WORSE! ONLY **HE** KNEW THE **TRUTH**— A TRUTH HE COULD NEVER SHARE WITH ANY LIVING BEING! BUT A MAN CAN BEAR ONLY SO MUCH BEFORE HIS MIND SNAPS LIKE A ROTTEN STICK! AND THE REVENGE OF THE **DEAD** CAN BE A MURDEROUS THING! SO LIEUTENANT PETER CARSON FOUND OUT WHEN THEY HANDED HIM THE **CASE OF THE TOOTHLESS BLONDE...**


THE LIEUTENANT HAS A VERY SPECIAL, AND VERY NASTY JOB! MINUTES LATER...
HI, LIEUTENANT! MUST BE SOMEBODY IMPORTANT, HUH? WHAT'S YOUR WIFE THINK OF ALL THIS?
DOLORES DOESN'T LIKE IT—OR MY JOB! BUT AFTER ALL I'M A COP! LET'S GO!
POLICE
79


YOU KNOW, LIEUTENANT, I'M GLAD I AIN'T GOT YOUR JOB! BRRRRR!
YOU SHOULD BE, CLANCY! I MADE A MISTAKE WHEN I BECAME AN—EXPERT!
POLICE
79


WELL, HERE YOU ARE! GOOD LUCK!
I'LL PROBABLY NEED IT!
GO RIGHT IN, LIEUTENANT! SAM BREEN IS WAITING FOR YOU!
CITY MORG

HIS FEET MAKE AN ECHOING SOUND IN THE GLOOM! THE AIR SMELLS OF—DEATH...
I FEEL SO STRANGE! FUNNY! I NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE ABOUT MY WORK! BUT NOW I'M—AFRAID! WHY? WHY?


CARSON'S ASSISTANT, AS GLOOMY AS THE SURROUNDINGS, GREETS HIM...
HELLO, SAM! WHAT IS IT? MAN OR WOMAN?
WHO KNOWS YET? IT'S A MESS! HARBOR PATROL FOUND IT FLOATING IN THE EAST RIVER! FUNNY THING ABOUT THAT...

YEAH, A FUNNY THING! YOU LIVE ON THE EAST RIVER DRIVE, DON'T YOU? THEY FOUND THE BODY FLOATING RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR PLACE! HAH-HAH! FUNNY?
MY PLACE? I—OKAY, SO WHAT? THEY HAD TO FIND IT SOME PLACE, DIDN'T THEY?

THE "FLOATER" IS A HORRIFYING SIGHT...

UGH! I TOLD YA IT WAS A BEAUTY! BEEN IN THE WATER FOR MONTHS! THIS ONE MIGHT LICK EVEN YOU, LIEUTENANT!

GOING TO BE TOUGH, ALL RIGHT! NOT MUCH LEFT TO IDENTIFY! IT MEANS A COMPLETE RESTORATION. LET'S GET TO WORK!

CARSON'S JOB IS—RESTORING BODIES TO THE POINT WHERE THEY CAN BE IDENTIFIED...

ONE CLUE WE GOT! IT AIN'T GOT ANY **TEETH!** NOT ONE! LOOKS LIKE THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN **PULLED** OUT!

NO TEETH! THAT MEANS ONLY ONE THING—MURDER! SOMEONE YANKED THE TEETH OUT TO KEEP US FROM IDENTIFYING IT BY THE DENTURES!

NOT MUCH CHANCE OF FINGERPRINTS, EITHER! WE CAN TAKE SKIN AND TRY TO HARDEN IT, FOR PRINTS, BUT I DOUBT IF WE'LL DO MUCH GOOD! HAND ME A SCALPEL, SAM!

THEN LIEUTENANT PETER CARSON SAYS A VERY STRANGE THING...

YOU DIDN'T TELL ME WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT THIS ONE, SAM! WHAT'S THE RUSH?

YOU REMEMBER THE WEALTHY TATE GIRL THAT DISAPPEARED? HER OLD MAN'S A FRIEND OF THE COMMISSIONER! GET IT?

WELL, YOU CAN TELL THEM THAT THIS **ISN'T** THE TATE GIRL! DEFINITELY NOT!

HUH? HOW DO YOU KNOW? WE JUST STARTED! WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S A WOMAN—YET!

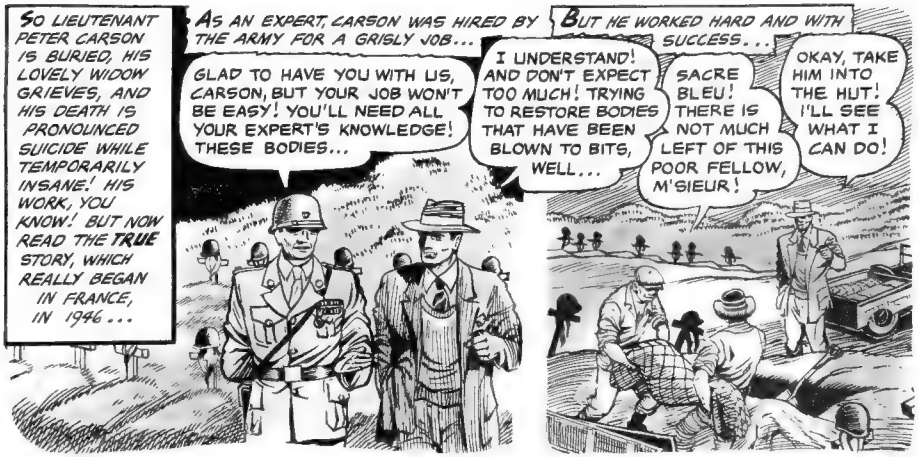
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, LIEUTENANT? AIN'T YOU GONNA WORK NO MORE? YOU'RE ACTING FUNNY!

YES, I GUESS I AM! BUT BE SURE AND TELL THEM—THAT GIRL IS **NOT** TATE'S DAUGHTER! GOODBYE, SAM!

AND A MOMENT LATER...

SO SHE FOUND ME AGAIN AFTER ALL! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT NOW, BUT

BANG!


SO LIEUTENANT PETER CARSON IS BURIED, HIS LOVELY WIDOW GRIEVES, AND HIS DEATH IS PRONOUNCED SUICIDE WHILE TEMPORARILY INSANE! HIS WORK, YOU KNOW! BUT NOW READ THE TRUE STORY, WHICH REALLY BEGAN IN FRANCE, IN 1946...
AS AN EXPERT, CARSON WAS HIRED BY THE ARMY FOR A GRISLY JOB...
GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, CARSON, BUT YOUR JOB WON'T BE EASY! YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR EXPERT'S KNOWLEDGE! THESE BODIES...
I UNDERSTAND! AND DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH! TRYING TO RESTORE BODIES THAT HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO BITS, WELL...
BUT HE WORKED HARD AND WITH SUCCESS...
SACRE BLEU! THERE IS NOT MUCH LEFT OF THIS POOR FELLOW, M'SIEUR!
OKAY, TAKE HIM INTO THE HUT! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO!

OFTEN LATE INTO THE NIGHT...
THEY BURIED THESE FELLOWS IN SUCH A HURRY! HAD TO, I SUPPOSE, BUT HOW THEY MIXED THINGS UP! WRONG ARMS AND LEGS WITH THE WRONG BODY...

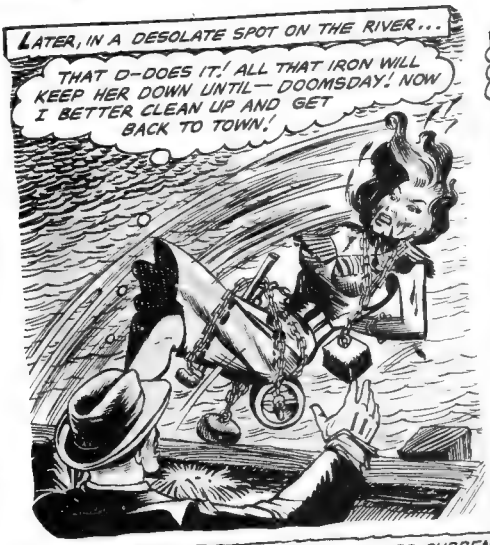
GOT IT! THIS IS — WAS — SERGEANT THOMAS WALSH, FIRST ARMY! THESE DENTURES MATCH HIS ARMY RECORDS PERFECTLY! WELL, ANOTHER ONE DONE!

IT IS NATURAL ENOUGH FOR CARSON TO SEEK ENTERTAINMENT...
MORE WINE, CHERIE? THE SPECIAL OF THE HOUSE — POUR VOUZ!
POUR MWA? MERCI, GISELLE! HAH-HAH! SEE HOW FAST I'M LEARNING FRENCH? GOOD, HUH?

YOU DO NOT NEED THE FRENCH, CHERIE! GISELLE UNDERSTANDS THE LANGUAGE OF— LOVE!
THEN DON'T FORGET — YOU'RE MEETING ME LATER! BY THE OLD BRIDGE!

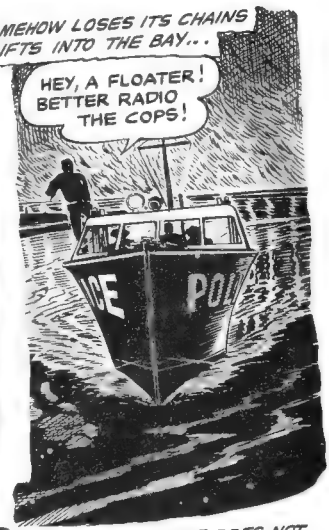
AND SO IT WENT, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, UNTIL...
CHERIE, YOU WILL MARRY ME, NO? SOON?
MARRY YOU! BUT, GISELLE, I HADN'T THOUGHT! I MEAN...
WHY NOT? I'M GOING TO BE HERE A LONG TIME YET! AND SHE'S LOVELY!
THEY ARE MARRIED...
GOODBYE! HAVE A GOOD TIME!
OH, I AM SO HAPPY! I LOVE YOU SO MUCH, PETER!
HAPPY HONEY-MOON!
ME, TOO, HONEY!
AND TAKE A VILLA...
CHERIE, YOU WILL TAKE ME TO AMERICA SOON, NO? YOUR JOB IS OVER! WHY DO WE WAIT?
NOT YET, GISELLE! BUT SOON —SOON! I HAVE BUSINESS TO FINISH!
BUT CARSON HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM AN OLD SWEETHEART IN AMERICA...
DOLORES IS FREE! HER HUSBAND DIED AND LEFT HER OVER A MILLION! AND NOW SHE WANTS TO SEE ME! SHE ALWAYS DID LOVE ME — WOULD HAVE MARRIED ME IF I'D HAD MONEY! BUT NOW...
SO I WILL NOT TAKE GISELLE TO AMERICA, YES! I WANT DOLORES AND THAT MILLION! GISELLE WILL FORGET ME IN A YEAR, PROBABLY DIVORCE ME AND GET MARRIED AGAIN! YES — I'LL DO IT!
SO ONE NIGHT HE SIMPLY GOES FOR A STROLL AND...
NO USE MAKING A FUSS! I'LL DROP GISELLE A NOTE FROM PARIS, TELL HER I'M LEAVING HER, AND NOT TO TRY AND FIND ME!
SOON...
IT WAS SIMPLE! GISELLE WILL NEVER FIND ME, EVEN IF SHE TRIES! SOON NOW I'LL SEE DOLORES, ASK HER TO MARRY ME!

SO, WITHOUT THE FORMALITY OF A DIVORCE FROM GISELLE...
...AND I PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
DARLING, AT LAST!
I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU, DOLORES!
AND FOR YEARS ALL GOES WELL, UNTIL ONE DAY...
HEY, LIEUTENANT, THERE'S A DAME ON THE PHONE! IN THE OTHER OFFICE! AND IT AIN'T YOUR WIFE!
A WOMAN? HMMM—OKAY, SAM! PROBABLY WANTS TO SELL ME SOMETHING!
THE SHOCK IS LIKE A VICIOUS BLOW IN THE STOMACH...
CHERIE? YOU WICKED MAN! I HAVE FOUND YOU AT LAST! IT'S GISELLE, DARLEENG! I WILL COME THERE NOW!
WHAT? GISELLE! NO, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T COME HERE! LISTEN...
HE THINKS FAST! HIS MARRIAGE, JOB, SECURITY, EVERYTHING IS IN DANGER...
YOU CAN'T MEET ME HERE, GISELLE! IT'S UH, AGAINST THE RULES! WHERE ARE YOU NOW? I SEE! OKAY, NOW YOU DO JUST AS I TELL YOU, UNDERSTAND? MEET ME AT...
AND HE MEETS HER IN A LONELY PLACE...
GISELLE? IS THAT YOU, SWEETHEART? I GOT HERE AT LAST!
YOU ARE A MEAN MAN, PETER! WHY DO YOU MAKE ME WAIT ALL THIS TIME? AND IN SUCH A PLACE! IF I DID NOT LOVE...
AND USES A TIRE IRON...
SORRY, GISELLE! BUT IT JUST HAS TO BE THIS WAY!
EEEEEEEEE—


LATER, IN A DESOLATE SPOT ON THE RIVER...
THAT D-DOES IT! ALL THAT IRON WILL KEEP HER DOWN UNTIL— DOOMSDAY! NOW I BETTER CLEAN UP AND GET BACK TO TOWN!

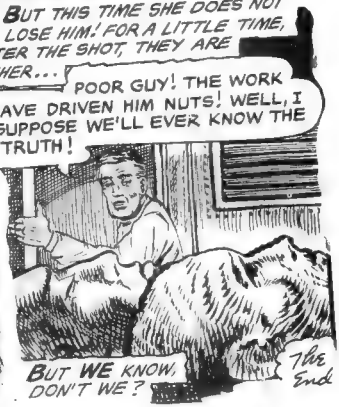
BUT FIRST... NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THE PLIERS—AND HER TEETH! UGH—WHAT A JOB THAT WAS! BUT WITHOUT HER TEETH AND CLOTHES, THEY'LL NEVER IDENTIFY HER, EVEN IF SHE COMES UP!

MONTHS LATER, URGED BY A RESTLESS CURRENT, A GHASTLY WHITE OBJECT MOVES AND SPINS IN THE BLACK WATER...


AND SOMEHOW LOSES ITS CHAINS AND DRIFTS INTO THE BAY...
HEY, A FLOATER! BETTER RADIO THE COPS!

UNTIL IT IS FOUND...
SAY, DON'T LIEUTENANT LARSON LIVE OVER THERE? THE GUY THAT TRIES TO IDENTIFY THESE STIFFS?
YEAH! SO WHAT?— YA WANT US TO TAKE IT UP TO HIS APARTMENT? C'MON NOW!

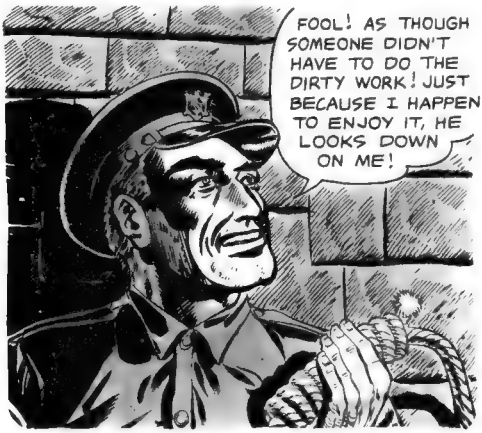
AND ONCE MORE GISELLE MEETS LIEUTENANT PETER LARSON...
GISELLE! THE TEETH— NO DOUBT OF IT! SHE—FOUND ME!


BUT THIS TIME SHE DOES NOT LOSE HIM! FOR A LITTLE TIME, AFTER THE SHOT, THEY ARE TOGETHER...
POOR GUY! THE WORK MUST HAVE DRIVEN HIM NUTS! WELL, I DON'T SUPPOSE WE'LL EVER KNOW THE REAL TRUTH!
BUT WE KNOW, DON'T WE?
The End

DEMON'S DOOM

A VERY WISE MAN ONCE SAID THAT— "THERE IS A MONSTER IN US ALL." PERHAPS, BUT MOST OF US MANAGE TO KEEP HIDDEN OUR EVIL THOUGHTS! THIS IS THE TALE OF A MAN WHO COULDN'T RESTRAIN THE DEMON IN HIM, A MAN WHO WAS DOOMED FROM BIRTH TO CELEBRATE A HANGMAN'S HOLIDAY...

THE YEARS PASS AND GEORGE WORTH REACHES MIDDLE AGE! LONG AGO HE HAD FOUND AN OCCUPATION TO SUIT HIS TALENTS...
I HOPE EVERYTHING IS READY, WARDEN! YOU KNOW I LIKE TO WORK FAST AND SMOOTHLY!
I KNOW, GEORGE! I MUST SAY THAT YOU SEEM TO-UGH— ENJOY, ENJOY YOUR WORK!
OF COURSE I ENJOY IT! WHY NOT? THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT A NICE, WELL OILED ROPE THAT...
NEVER MIND, GEORGE! YOU MAKE ME A LITTLE SICK AT MY STOMACH! GOODBYE!


FOOL! AS THOUGH SOMEONE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THE DIRTY WORK! JUST BECAUSE I HAPPEN TO ENJOY IT, HE LOOKS DOWN ON ME!

GEORGE'S BIG MOMENT...
YOU MUST BE BRAVE, MY SON!
HAH— NONE OF THEM ARE BRAVE! THEY ALL WHIMPER! I LIKE THAT!

AFTERWARD...
NOT BAD TODAY! HE SCREAMED AT THE VERY LAST! BUT I STILL HAVEN'T REALIZED MY LIFE'S AMBITION...

THERE! ONE MORE! BUT BEFORE I RETIRE I WANT TO HANG A WOMAN!

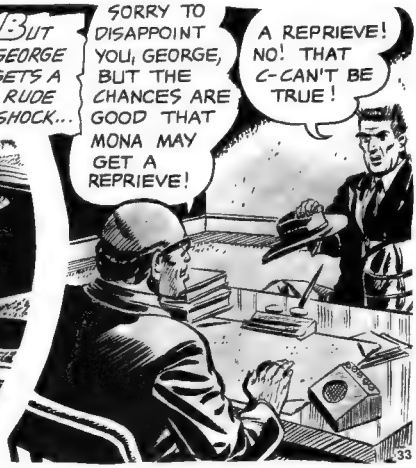
POOR GEORGE! MONTHS PASS AND STILL HIS SECRET AMBITION IS UNREALIZED! THEN ONE DAY...
AT LAST! MONA TRENT SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR KILLING HER HUSBAND!

AH! I'VE WAITED TWENTY YEARS FOR THIS CHANCE! AFTER I HANG MONA I CAN RETIRE HAPPY!
TO HANG!
MONA TRENT

GEORGE MAKES CERTAIN PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIG EVENT...
IT'S VERY EXPENSIVE, SIR! A ROPE OF PURE SILK!
I DON'T MIND THE EXPENSE! I WANT THE BEST SILKEN ROPE YOU'VE GOT! IT'S FOR A VERY SPECIAL PURPOSE!

THAT NIGHT...
SO FINE AND SOFT! JUST RIGHT FOR A WOMAN'S TENDER THROAT!

THINK I'LL DROP IN AND PAY THE WARDEN A LITTLE VISIT! MAYBE I CAN GET A LOOK AT MONA TRENT!


BUT GEORGE GETS A RUDE SHOCK...
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, GEORGE, BUT THE CHANCES ARE GOOD THAT MONA MAY GET A REPRIEVE!
A REPRIEVE! NO! THAT C-CAN'T BE TRUE!

IT'S ONLY A RUMOR, BUT THERE'S TALK ABOUT NEW EVIDENCE. I HOPE SO, GEORGE! I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU GET CHEATED OUT OF THIS ONE! YOU'RE A GHOUL!
GHOUL, AM I! I'LL SHOW HIM YET! BUT THEY CAN'T REPRIEVE MONA, THEY CAN'T! SHE'S THE ONLY WOMAN I'LL EVER HAVE A CHANCE TO HANG!
THE ENTRANCE TO THE DEATH HOUSE! I WONDER IF I CAN GET A LOOK AT MONA! THE WARDEN ORDERED ME TO KEEP OUT, BUT...
SO... IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAC! THE WARDEN SAID I COULD TALK TO MONA TRENT FOR A FEW MINUTES!
WELL, OKAY THEN! I GUESS IT'S ALL RIGHT! THE FOURTH CELL DOWN!
A MINUTE LATER...
HELLO, MONA! I'M YOUR FRIEND! THE ONLY REAL FRIEND YOU'VE GOT LEFT IN THE WORLD!
W—WHO ARE YOU?
BETTER BE NICE TO ME, MY DEAR! I CAN MAKE IT PAINLESS IF I WANT TO! YOU SEE—I'M GOING TO HANG YOU!
THE H-HANGMAN!
SCREAMING WON'T—(CHUCKLE)—HELP YOU, MONA!

THE DAYS PASS AND THE TIME OF EXECUTION GROWS NEAR. ON THE VERY DAY...
NO WORD YET AS TO WHETHER OR NOT MONA TRENT WILL GET A LAST MINUTE STAY OF EXECUTION! THE GOVERNOR IS DUE BACK FROM A TRIP TWO HOURS BEFORE THE TIME SET...
THE FOOLS! THEY'LL CHEAT ME YET—I FEEL IT! IF ONLY I COULD DO SOMETHING!

MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING! THERE'S A MASTER SWITCH AT THE PRISON THAT CONTROL ALL THE ELECTRIC CLOCKS! I WONDER...
NOW I'LL JUST SET THE CLOCKS AHEAD A LITTLE! HAVE TO DO IT GRADUALLY, A FEW MINUTES AT A TIME, SO NOBODY WILL NOTICE!

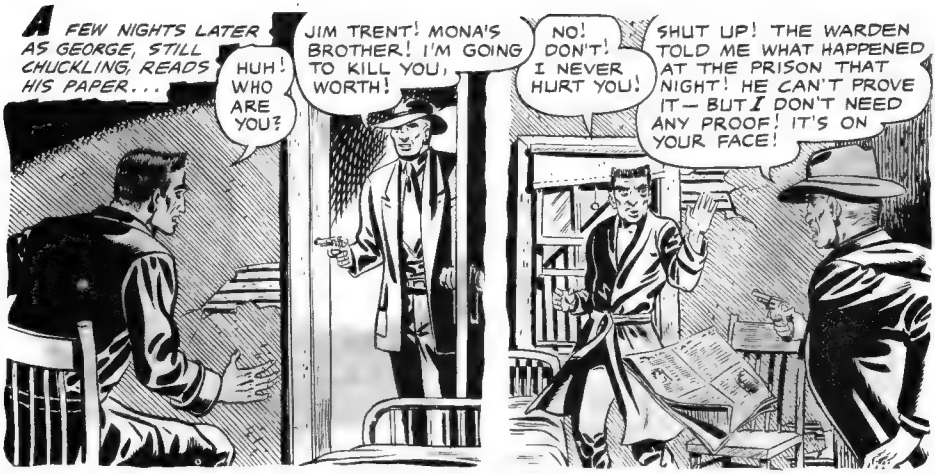
VERY SOON...
YOU'RE HOURS EARLY, GEORGE! CAN'T WAIT, I SUPPOSE!
HELLO, WARDEN! JUST THOUGHT I WOULD COME EARLY AND WAIT AROUND!
WARDEN

AT HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY...
LITTLE BY LITTLE HE SET THE CLOCKS AHEAD UNTIL FINALLY, HE HAS GAINED AN HOUR! THEN...

ONLY HALF AN HOUR, WARDEN! HADN'T WE BETTER GET STARTED?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! THE GOVERNOR SHOULD HAVE CALLED BEFORE NOW!

I'VE NEVER SEEN TIME GO SO FAST! ALMOST AS THOUGH I WERE THE ONE BEING HANGED!
HAH—HAH—I'D LIKE THAT, WARDEN! BUT RIGHT NOW I'LL SETTLE FOR THE GIRL!

LATER...
NO! PLEASE DON'T! IT'S NOT TIME YET!
I'M AFRAID IT IS, MONA!
HURRY, YOU FOOLS! HURRY!
THAT'S FUNNY! MY WATCH HAS LOST AN HOUR! HMMM— I WONDER! BUT NO, THE PRISON CLOCKS ARE ON WESTERN UNION TIME, THEY'RE NEVER WRONG!
AND SO MONA TRENT LOSES BY ONE PRECIOUS HOUR...
A FEW MINUTES LATER THE PHONE RINGS IN THE WARDEN'S OFFICE...
HELLO! OH, GOVERNOR! YES, WE CARRIED OUT THE EXECUTION ON SCHEDULE! AT TWO O' CLOCK... WHAT?
HAVE YOU GONE MAD DOWN THERE? IT'S ONLY QUARTER AFTER ONE NOW! I WAS GOING TO REPRIEVE THAT GIRL! THIS WILL BLAST US BOTH OUT OF OUR JOBS, YOU FOOL!
I C-CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR! OUR CLOCKS...
BUT LATER, AFTER CHECKING THE CLOCKS, THE WARDEN COMES TO UNDERSTAND...
I KNOW, BUT WHO WILL BELIEVE ME? HE MUST HAVE TAMPERED WITH THOSE CLOCKS SOMEHOW! THE SADISTIC FIEND! OH, THAT POOR GIRL! HER FAMILY...


A FEW NIGHTS LATER AS GEORGE, STILL CHUCKLING, READS HIS PAPER...
HUH! WHO ARE YOU?
JIM TRENT! MONA'S BROTHER! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, WORTH!
NO! DON'T! I NEVER HURT YOU!
SHUT UP! THE WARDEN TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED AT THE PRISON THAT NIGHT! HE CAN'T PROVE IT— BUT I DON'T NEED ANY PROOF! IT'S ON YOUR FACE!

RUN, GEORGE! RUN FOR YOUR MISERABLE, WORTHLESS LIFE...
MISSED ME! MAYBE I CAN GET AWAY— THAT BUILDING NEXT DOOR...

A DESPERATE LEAP...
G—GOT TO MAKE IT!

MISSES...
YAAAAAAAA—

MUST HAVE JUMPED AND GOT TANGLED IN THE ROPE! SOME WORKMAN LEFT IT THERE, I GUESS. BROKE HIS NECK!
UGH— TERRIBLE!
GOODBYE, GEORGE! NOBODY WILL CRY FOR YOU!
The End

SKELETONS have SECRETS!

DEATH CAME TO SURFSIDE MANOR IN A WEIRD AND UNCANNY MANNER, THAT BAFFLED THE REGULAR POLICE AND SET NEWSPAPERS SHOUTING! WERE THERE REALLY SOME SORT OF SUPERNATURAL CREATURES, PROWLING THE NIGHT TO WREAK THEIR HORRID REVENGE ON INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN? FOLLOW THE PRESS ON THE PATH, THAT LED TO THE ANSWER OF THE MACABRE PUZZLE OF **THE SEA DEMONS!**

IN THE CITY ROOM OF A METROPOLITAN DAILY...

STAND BY TO REPLATE, JOE! JUST FOUND ANOTHER SKELETON OUT AT SURFSIDE MANOR! IT'S WILLIAM GRISBY, THE BIG OIL TYCOON!

ANOTHER ONE! **WOW!** THREE THIS WEEK!

AND THE STORY IS GIVEN TO REWRITE...

PATCH IT UP, HANK, BUT HERE'S THE FACTS. AS USUAL, THE SKELETON FOUND ONLY A FEW HOURS AFTER BEING SEEN... IN PERFECT HEALTH! POLICE STUMPED IN ALL THESE BIZARRE KILLINGS! WHISPERS TELL OF A SEA DEMON LEGEND...

SOON...

ISN'T IT DREADFUL? PEOPLE INTO SKELETONS WITHIN MINUTES!

MIGHTY STRANGE... TABITHA COLBY'S SURFSIDE MANOR SEEMS JINXED!

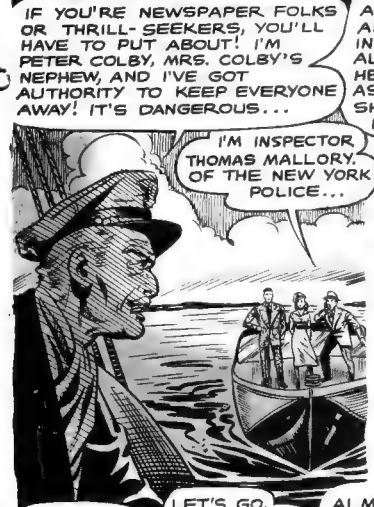
Daily Dinge

SEA DEMONS STRIKE AGAIN!

WHILE IN AN OFFICE ON CENTRE STREET...

AND SHORTLY AFTERWARD...

AFTER CRUISING MANY MILES UP LONG ISLAND SOUND...



FRAMED IN AN ATTIC WINDOW, HIGH ABOVE THE UNSUSPECTING COUPLE...

AHHH... MY DEMONS ANSWER ME. THEY REVEAL THE SECRET OF DEATH!

UH... PARDON ME — I'M JOHNNY JEREMY...
ENTER! BUT BE SILENT!

COME, OH SPIRITS OF THE SHADOWS — DELVE DEEP... AND BRING FORTH THE TRUTH...

COME NOW! YOU SHALL SEE WITH YOUR OWN EYES THE HORROR OF THE DEEP...

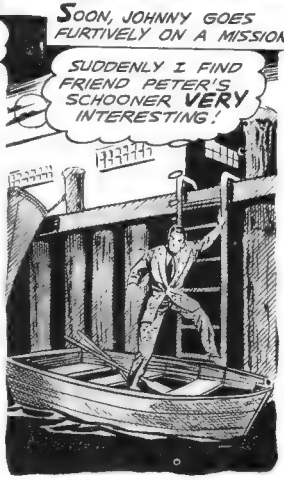
YE GADS! WHAT IS IT?

THE SEA-WITCH!

...AND SO, YOUNG MAN... YOU ALONE KNOW WHO HAS DESTROYED THE OLD FOOLS...

STAND IN THAT CHARMED CIRCLE... MY CHARMS WILL PROTECT YOU FROM HER...
I'D BETTER DO AS SHE SAYS.

NOW...GO AND SEEK HER...SHE LIES IN THE SEA, BUT SHE LIES ABOVE IT.
HMM... NOW TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THE OLD GAL MEANS!

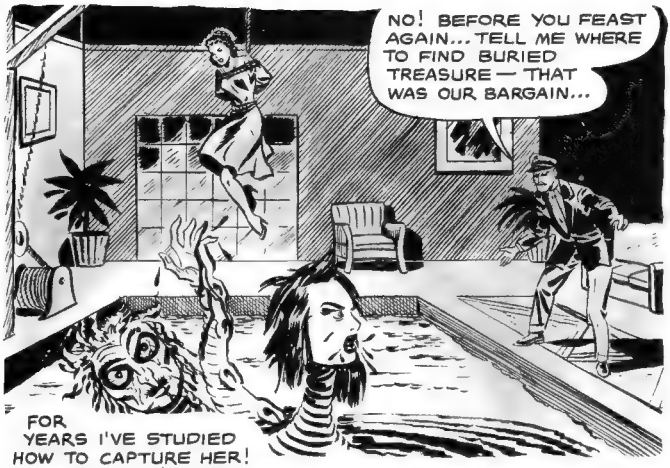

SOON, JOHNNY GOES FURTIVELY ON A MISSION...
SUDDENLY I FIND FRIEND PETER'S SCHOONER VERY INTERESTING!

I HOPE THE OLD WOMAN'S CHARM IS AS GOOD AS SHE THINKS... IF NOT, WELL... WHO KNOWS WHAT I'LL FIND...

THIS IS QUIET.. GOOD, NO ONE TO INTERFERE.

SWIMMING POOL!
THIS IS SOME CRAFT! BUT... WHAT DO I HEAR? THAT SOUND IS... IS SOMEONE MOANING!
SWIMMING POOL

JOAN!


NO! BEFORE YOU FEAST AGAIN... TELL ME WHERE TO FIND BURIED TREASURE — THAT WAS OUR BARGAIN...
FOR YEARS I'VE STUDIED HOW TO CAPTURE HER! I SUCCEEDED! YOU SHALL NOT STOP ME— NO, I'LL FEED YOU TO HER FIRST...

LIVE SOULS TO THAT HORROR, FOR DEAD GOLD? COLBY, YOU'VE GONE MAD — MAD TO MAKE SUCH A BARGAIN.

ONE CHANCE... THAT RUG HE'S STANDING ON...

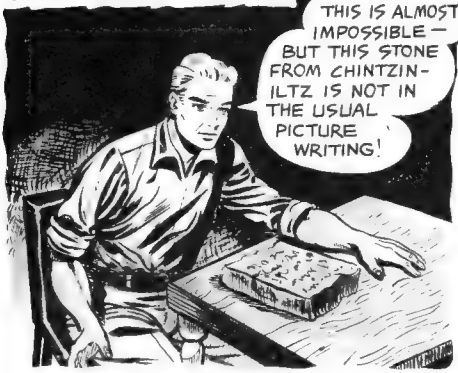
LUCKY FOR US YOU GO IN FOR DRAMATICS, COLBY! GIVES ME TIME TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE!
NO! THE POOL! THE SEA WITCH!

ATTRACTED BY THE SHOT, INSPECTOR MALLORY CLIMBS ABOARD...
YES... BUT COLBY IS IN THE POOL... DON'T STEP TOO CLOSE OR SHE'LL REACH YOU, TOO. YOU'D BETTER HAVE AUNT TABITHA TELL YOU WHAT TO DO TO GET RID OF HER.
YOU KIDS ALL RIGHT?

YEAH — IT'S A STORY— INSPECTOR MALLORY'LL VOUCH FOR IT... BUT NO ONE IS GOING TO BELIEVE IT!
The End

The Crawling Horror

THE RITUAL CHANTS OF A FORGOTTEN TONGUE CREATED A NIGHTMARE OF BLOOD AND MADNESS FOR THE PEOPLE OF YUCATAN AND BROUGHT BACK A SCOURGE THAT HAD SLUMBERED UNDER CRUMBLING STONES FOR A THOUSAND YEARS...

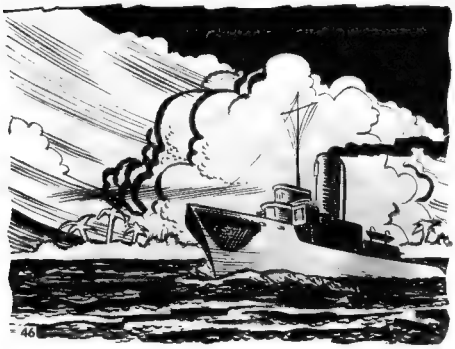


DR. JAMISON— CAN I INTERRUPT? I HAVE A RUNIC THAT NEEDS DECIPHERING...
SURELY, TOM, I'D BE GLAD TO WORK IT OUT FOR YOU... WHERE IS IT FROM?

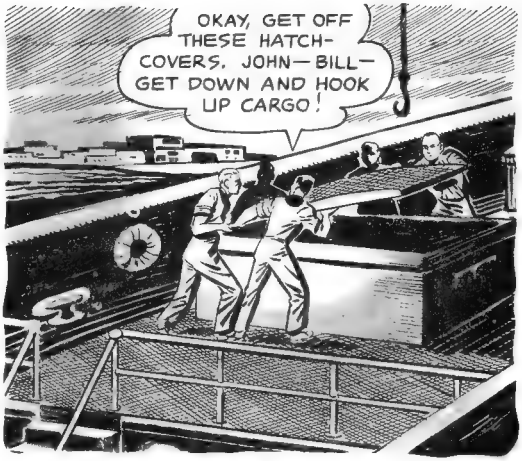
MEXICO! THIS IS INCREDIBLE! WITH THESE WE COULD DECIPHER THE MAYAN GLYPHS! THIS IS ANOTHER ROSETTA STONE!

THAT STARTED A MAD WHIRL OF PLANNING—UNTIL FINALLY WE HAD AN EXPEDITION PLANNED—WITH DIRECTOR KANE HIMSELF IN CHARGE...
AFTER YOU'VE ALL UNPACKED, MEET IN MY CABIN...

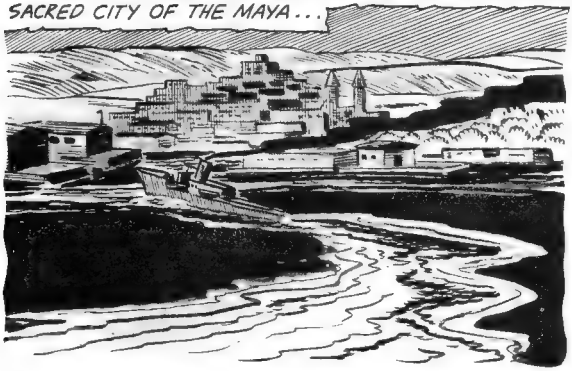
AND LATER...
NOW REMEMBER, NOT EVEN THE CAPTAIN KNOWS OUR PURPOSE... THIS TRIP IS A SECRET... THE DISCOVERIES WE HOPE TO MAKE MUST BE KEPT UNDER WRAPS UNTIL WE'RE SURE OF THEM!


IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WE WERE IN SIGHT OF THE VERDANT JUNGLE COUNTRY OF YUCATAN—AND OVER EVERYONE CREPT THE DEEP, THROBBING FASCINATION OF THESE TROPIC SHORES.

AS FOR ME... I SPENT MY TIME WITH JOYCE, MR. KANE'S SECRETARY...
TOM... IF THIS TRIP IS SUCCESSFUL, YOU'LL BE AN IMPORTANT MAN!
MAYBE, JOYCE... BUT MOST OF ALL IS TO BE IMPORTANT TO YOU...



MAJESTICALLY OUR SHIP STEAMED INTO THE SMALL HARBOR OF SAN ANGELO OBISPO... THE NEAREST POINT TO THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF CHINTZIN-ILTZ, SACRED CITY OF THE MAYA...



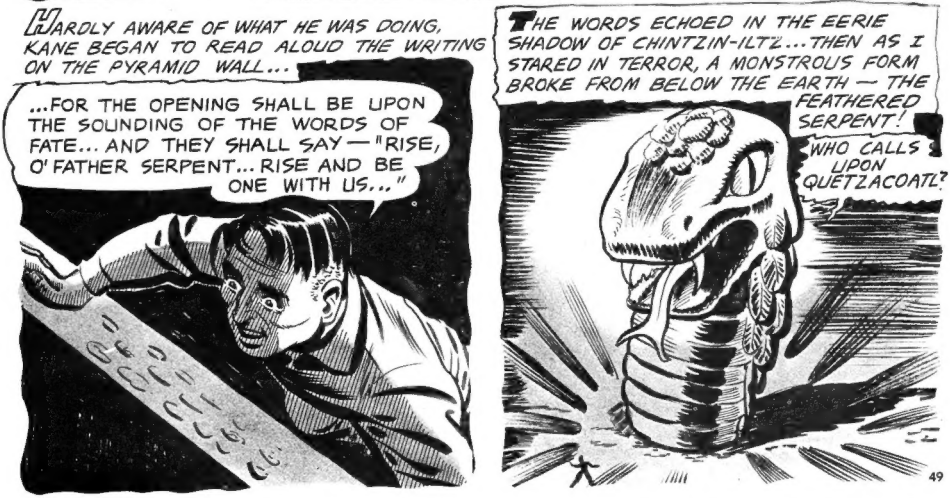
THE TOWN WAS FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND NOISE AS WE DOCKED...

AND THE PEOPLE OF SAN ANGELO PARADED BEFORE OUR PLEASED AND STARTLED EYES...

BUT THE WORK CONTINUED...
LOWER AWAY!
AND WE LOADED OUR TRUCKS... SUPPLIES, DIESELS... EVERYTHING!
SLOWLY OUR CARAVAN WORKED ITS WAY ACROSS THE SMOLDERING DESERT OF CENTRAL YUCATAN...THE MOUNTAINS WE STROVE TO REACHED SEEMED ALWAYS FURTHER...
AND THEN, AS WE TOPPED THE LAST HILL, THERE IT WAS — THE ANCIENT CITY THAT HAD BEEN BUILT BY A LOST CIVILIZATION FOUR-THOUSAND YEARS AGO...
LOOK!
DARLING! IT'S FANTASTIC! ALMOST LIKE LANDING ON MARS!
YOU SENT FOR ME? WHAT'S UP, DIRECTOR?
TOM— WE'RE ALMOST LATE... BUT WE'LL HAVE TO GO OUT TO THE RUINS TONIGHT! IF THE RUNIC STONE WAS CORRECT, THE KEY WILL SHOW ON THE MAIN PYRAMD AT MIDNIGHT!
AND SOON...
TOM— DIRECTOR KANE WANTS YOU IN HIS TENT...
DARLING, I'M FRIGHTENED... I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM ACTING THIS WAY!
WHAT'S HIS HURRY? OKAY, LET ME GET THIS PEG IN FIRMLY!

THERE SHE IS... AN UNSOLVED RIDDLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS— AND TO THINK... MAYBE TONIGHT...
YES—LET'S HURRY... WE'VE EIGHT MINUTES TO CLIMB THAT PYRAMID—COME ON!
GASPING WE RACED UP THE BIG STEPS ...AND THERE ON TOP WERE CONFRONTED BY A FANTASTICALLY HUGE MOON...
NOW WE WAIT TWO MINUTES...
I ALMOST FEEL AFRAID! THIS IS LIKE INVADING ANOTHER WORLD!

THAT'S IT, TOM! THAT RAY OF MOONLIGHT SHINES ON A GLYPH THAT ACTS LIKE A CIPHER KEY... WE CAN READ IT NOW!
KANE WAS A MADMAN... HE RAN DOWN THE PYRAMID WITH AN ABANDON THAT THREATENED TO DESTROY HIM...
HAH-HAH-HAH! IT'S UNLOCKED! WE'VE GOT THE SECRET!
IT'S HERE WITH THIS— I CAN READ IT ALL! ALL OF IT IS MINE!

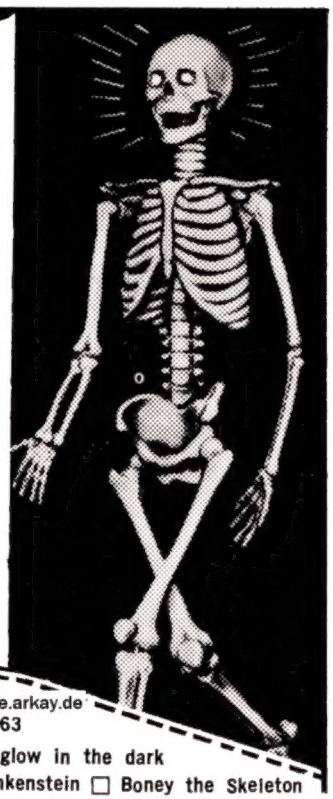

HARDLY AWARE OF WHAT HE WAS DOING, KANE BEGAN TO READ ALOUD THE WRITING ON THE PYRAMID WALL...
...FOR THE OPENING SHALL BE UPON THE SOUNDING OF THE WORDS OF FATE... AND THEY SHALL SAY—"RISE, O' FATHER SERPENT... RISE AND BE ONE WITH US..."
THE WORDS ECHOED IN THE EERIE SHADOW OF CHINTZIN-ILTZ... THEN AS I STARED IN TERROR, A MONSTROUS FORM BROKE FROM BELOW THE EARTH — THE FEATHERED SERPENT!
WHO CALLS UPON QUETZACOATL?

BUT DURING THE FOLLOWING DAYS, WHILE I RACKED MY BRAINS TO FIND A WAY OF SAVING JOYCE, KANE AND HIS MONSTROUS PET VISITED SAN ANGELO... LEAVING IN THEIR WAKE A PATH OF RUIN, BLOOD AND HORROR...

CONTINUED ON THE BACK COVER

MONSTER

S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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DURING ALL THIS DESTRUCTION, I SPENT MY TIME SLOWLY CHECKING EVERY SYMBOL IN THE AREA OF THE PYRAMID KANE HAD FOUND, AGAINST MY RUNIC KEY...

I MUST FIND IT! I MUST!

THIS IS IT! IT FITS... I CAN READ THEM NOW! WHY, IT'S EASY, TERRIBLY EASY! YES, THERE'S THE INCANTATION KANE USED... THANK HEAVENS... HERE IT IS... NO! IT CAN'T BE... BUT...

MY MIND REELED WITH THE IMPACT OF WHAT I READ ON THOSE ANCIENT STONES... A MESSAGE OF HORROR THAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT OF DAY...

IT- IT CAN'T BE TRUE!

FINALLY I WAS PREPARED... AND I BEGAN THE LONG, HARD CLIMB TO WHAT THE NATIVES HAD TOLD ME WAS THE LAIR OF THE MAD PRIEST, AND "QUETZACOATL!"

MY HEART MISSED A BEAT... THERE WAS JOYCE! BUT THERE, BESIDE THE SLUMBERING RELIC OF A FORGOTTEN AGE—WAS KANE!

YOU'LL BOW DOWN TO ME! JUST AS ALL THE OTHERS WILL!

I'M NOT BOWING, KANE!

THEN I REMEMBERED THE PHRASE ON THE TEMPLE— QUETZACOATL AND THE SOUL OF THE HIGH PRIEST ARE ONE—AND INDIVISIBLE ... IF I COULD KILL KANE, I WOULD DESTROY THE SERPENT...

YOU FIEND! YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! NOT ANYMORE!

AGGG—

THERE WAS A BLINDING FLASH... AND FOR A MOMENT TO MY DAZZLED EYES, IT SEEMED AS THOUGH IN SOME STRANGE WAY, KANE AND QUETZACOATL HAD MERGED... AND AS THE INSCRIPTION HAD SAID... WERE ONE!

The End